

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-21. Canceled
22. (New) An analytical test element for determining an analyte in a liquid, the test element comprising:
- an inert carrier supporting an application zone for sample material;
 - a detection zone for determining the analyte;
 - a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone; and
 - a hydrophobic structured surface in an area around the application zone.
23. (New) The test element of claim 22, wherein the channel has an opening in the area of the application zone and the hydrophobic structured surface is positioned at least around the channel opening.
24. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein the channel is a capillary channel.
25. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein an interior of the channel has at least partially a hydrophilic surface.
26. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein an average distance between elevations on the hydrophobic structured surface is about 50 nm to 200 μm and the average height of the elevations is about 50 nm to 100 μm .
27. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein the hydrophobic structured surface has a surface energy of $\leq 20 \text{ mN/m}$.

28. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein the hydrophobic structured surface has a contact angle with aqueous systems of $\geq 120^\circ$.
29. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein the hydrophobic structured surface is immobilized on the test element.
30. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein the test element is designed to be held within a magazine.
31. (New) The test element of claim 30 wherein the magazine is designed to hold both used and unused test elements.
32. (New) The test element of claim 30 wherein the magazine is located within a measuring device.
33. (New) The test element of claim 32 wherein the measuring device is an optical or electrochemical measuring device.
34. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein the test element is designed to be contained in a measuring device.
35. (New) The test element of claim 34 wherein the measuring device is an optical or electrochemical measuring device.
36. (New) The test element of claim 22 wherein the test element is formed for determining glucose in blood.
37. (New) A method of forming a test element, the method comprising:
providing an inert carrier;

forming on the carrier an application zone for a sample material, a detection zone for determining an analyte in the sample material, and a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone; and

forming a hydrophobic structured surface from a sprayed suspension of hydrophobic nanoparticles at least in an area around the application zone.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the hydrophobic surface is immobilized.

39. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the forming step includes applying a hardenable substance to areas of the test element to be coated, applying hydrophobic, hydrophobized or hydrophobizable particles to the coated areas and immobilizing the particles by hardening.

40. (New) A method for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the method comprising:

applying a sample liquid to a test element having an inert carrier supporting an application zone for sample material, a detection zone for determining the analyte, and a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone, wherein the test element has a hydrophobic structured surface at least in an area around the application zone; and

qualitatively determining the analyte present in the sample liquid.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 further comprising quantitatively determining the analyte present in the sample liquid.

42. (New) A method for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the method comprising:

applying a sample liquid to a test element having an inert carrier, an application zone for sample material, a detection zone for determining the analyte, and a channel formed to transport liquid from the application zone to the detection zone, wherein the test element has a hydrophobic structured surface at least in an area around the application zone; and

quantitatively determining the analyte present in the sample liquid.